

April 16, 1941

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Thank you so much for the lovely Easter box and the cookies. We all enjoyed them so much but to me it couldn't be quite like being at home. I love my yellow blouse and its just what I wanted and needed. And anklets are always on my list. The handkerchief was so pretty and dainty and I always need those. We had a beautiful day and I thought of you and wondered how St. Cloud looked. Mrs. Everts, Dorothy's mother, drove over from Boone in the afternoon and took us all riding for several hours. She has been so lovely to us, coming over nearly every Sunday afternoon and taking us for a short drive and just sort of taking care of us in general. Virginia Richter went home for Easter and had a very nice time.

Last night I dreamed that Mother, Connie and el drove down here to see me! It was so real that I was shocked when that darn alarm clock sounded off! I was telling Connie all about a certain test in Chem. – The result of having Chem. Lab all yesterday afternoon, I suppose. I had my first unknown yesterday for negative ions. Each girl is given a solid unknown and she is to test it on that form and is a solution to determine what negative ions are present. There can be any number from one to 11. Its an awful lot of fun, I think. By treating the unknown with certain acids or salts or bases, characteristic precipitates are formed and each ion has a characteristic appearances as to color. Then we add a cream acid to test for solubility. Each precipitate is characteristically insoluble in a certain acid. I found my unknown to contain a phosphate ion but I won't know until next week if my tests were right or complete.

Horowitz played here last night and I couldn't hear him! That's the way it goes every time – I missed Helen Jepson, I missed McClelland Barkley, I missed Raymond Clapper. This time it was Chem – again. Id like to know what I'm going to school for, anyway. But I am going to hear Olin Downes music critic for the New York Times, Thursday night.

This afternoon we do our first experimental cooking in Household Equipment. We'll use surface units of gas stoves first, then the ovens on Friday. I suppose we'll start work on electric ranges next week.

We went over to see our room in Oak the other day. Its way up under the eaves and is a corner room with two windows facing north and east. There are three desks and three closets. But I'm still afraid of the kind of situation we might be getting into. Helen is fine and sensible and has her "feet on the ground," all right. But she's very sarcastic, old-maidish in her habits and criticizes constantly without end. As a result, its very heard for her to make friends and we're the only ones she has. But we don't see how we can live in close quarters with her for a whole year. She doesn't influence us for the best at all. It was the most foolish thing I ever did, to get roped in on a deal like that but I guess there's not much that can be done, now.

Will you please rush me my cotton formal??? I might need it Sat. night. That's why I'm sending this special. I asked you before but do you suppose I could get it? I think there's still time – Thanks so much.

Love, Virginia

P.S. The military Ball is this Sat. night and my cotton formal is the only thing I can wear so will please rush it?

P.S. Can Connie come?